

of the Bishop.<sup>1</sup> Peter de la Mare was at once released from Nottingham Castle. His journey to London through the towns and villages on the road was a triumphal procession, which the chronicler compares to the return of Thomas a Becket from exile. In London the citizens honoured him with costly presents, which it was their custom to offer to distinguished strangers, much as people now offer the freedom of a city.<sup>2</sup>

Although the King had meanwhile come to Westminster, it was not for some weeks that the mourning for his grandfather was ended, and the coronation ceremonies begun. At last, on July 15, the King made his triumphal entry into the city, where the Londoners welcomed with enthusiasm the return of royal favour in his person. The modesty and affability of the Duke and Lord Percy, as they rode in front of the King through the streets, were remarked by all, in contrast to their conduct at St. Paul's a few months back. Nothing could be more courteous than the way in which they requested the crowd to make way. Times were changed, and manners with them.<sup>3</sup>

Next morning the long rites and ceremonies of coronation took place in the Abbey, and were followed by a great banquet in Westminster Hall, to which all the bishops, earls, and barons were invited. The crowd of onlookers was so great that the Duke as Seneschal and Lord Percy as Marshal had to ride up and down the Hall on great horses to make room for the servants bearing the dishes. A fountain running with wine played in the Palace grounds, and the King's subjects of all classes were invited to come and drink there undisturbed.<sup>4</sup> In the evening Richard created four new earls. The new Earl of Nottingham was a mere hoy, the new Earl of Huntingdon was a Poitevin lord, rewarded by this barren title for his loyalty to our waning power in France. The other two creations were of much greater importance. The King's uncle, Thomas of Woodstock, the supporter of his brother, John of Gaunt, was made Earl of Buckingham, and

<sup>1</sup> Wale., i. 330-1; *Chron. Ang.* < 148-60 ; \$\*ad.> Iv. 14-  
a *Chron. Ang.*, 150-1; Wals., ii, 44, line 5.  
\* Wals.. L 331. <sup>2</sup> *Chron. Ang.*, 15:t 02.